

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 DLOS-03 OFA-01 L-02 INT-05

COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAJ-01 AID-05 OES-03 /072 W

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R 241400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS MR UR BU PL

SUBJECT: SOVIET-MAURITANIAN FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 0001 (NOTAL) B. NOUAKCHOTT 0092 (NOTAL)

1. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF APRIL 21 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HERE CONFIRMED GIRM WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND 1973 SOVIET-MAURITANIAN FISHING AGREEMENT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET "FISHERIES RESEARCH FACILITY," AND CREATION OF SOVIET-MAURITANIAN JOINT FISHING COMPANY TO EXPLOIT MAURITANIAN FISHERIES AND TO INVEST IN FISH PROCESSING. THERE WERE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

2. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED DRAFT FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND, BULGARIA AND
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NIGERIA.

3. COMMENT: EXCEPT IN SOUTHERN PART OF MAURITANIA, FISH DO NOT, FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL REASONS, SERVE AS ESSENTIAL PART OF MAURITANIAN DIET. CONSEQUENTLY, RICH FISHING GROUNDS OFF COAST ARE VIEWED BY GIRM PRIMARILY AS MAJOR POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EXPORT INCOME. (IN 1973 FISH EXPORTS EARNED \$11 MILLION OR ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF MAURITANIA'S EXPORT RECEIPTS.) IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS MORE THAN DOZEN NATIONS HAVE SIGNED FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH MAURITANIA. MOST ACTIVE COUNTRIES FISHING IN MAURITANIAN WATERS ARE USSR AND JAPAN. FISH PROCESSING IS CARRIED OUT BY SIX FIRMS, LARGEST ONE BEING SPANISH PUBLIC ENTERPRISE, IN MAURITANIA'S MAJOR PORT CITY OF NOUADHIBOU. EXPANSION OF SOVIET-MAURITANIAN FISHING AGREEMENT IS APPARENTLY RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN NOUAKCHOTT LAST DECEMBER BETWEEN GIRM AND SOVIET VICE MINISTER OF FISHERIES (REF A). WE BELIEVE THESE EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS INCLUDED SOVIET REQUEST TO OPEN CONSULALTE IN NOUADHIBOU (REF B). WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SOVIET CONSULATE.HANDYSIDE

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